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hospital
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PARRIS ISLAND, S.C., 11 Feb---A low rate of illnesses in the past few months has helped the Beaufort Naval Hospital make it through some very 'lean times' without sacrificing services to its patients or quality in the care it provides.

The 'lean times' is best described as a simple shortage of available nurses to work in the hospital. "We've been very lucky thus far," explains Navy Commander Charles A. McFee, the executive officer of the hospital, "that so few people have had to come to us for treatment. Our in-patient rate is much lower than last year's, and lower still than our expectations for this year."

Commander McFee explained the National Register listing qualified nurses is--there are none to be hired. This leaves only those nurses who are not entered on the register, and they are the people the hospital needs, and needs now.

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The hospital provides in-and out-patient care and emergency treatment for all military personnel in the Beaufort Tri-Command (MCRD, Parris Island; MCAS, Beaufort; and the hospital itself) and their dependents. It also treats retired military personnel who live in the Beaufort area.

A wide range of facilities is offered by the hospital besides general medicine and surgery. Included are Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Gynecology, Obstetrics, Ophthalmology, Optometry, Oral surgery, Orthopedic surgery, Otolaryngology, Pathology, Pediatrics, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Psychiatry, Podiatry and Radiology.

Appointments for treatment at these clinics is usually required, the only exception being of an emergency nature. After normal working hours and during weekends, only one medical officer is on duty, thus any treatment during this period other than an emergency is discouraged.

Other services provided by the hospital besides the listed departments include clinics for urology, immunizations, internal medicine and laboratory testing.

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The personnel needed to operate these services total nearly 550 trained doctors, nurses, technicians and administrative staff.

But the hospital is not limited to only medical and medical-related duties. Also provided at the Beaufort Haval Hospital is a small but well-equipped post exchange, a snack bar and a movie theater. All these are located on the second deck of the hospital in the east wing.

These services are provided mainly for the personnel of the hospital, but are also available to any patrons authorized to use the hospital facilities.

The hospital itself is large enough to accomodate its patients, but some additional construction is underway, primarily to modernize the existing air conditioning units.

A large building is being erected near the west end of the hospital, which will house the new airconditioning system. The new system will regulate the temperature and humidity levels of the differing needs in the hospital. Certain areas, such as the surgery clinics, must be supplied with constant

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temperature and humidity free air to ensure sterility of the operating rooms. The new units will handle this problem.

The Beaufort Naval Hospital is part of and a great asset to the Beaufort Tri-Command. The staff of a hospital strive constantly for better and faster service to its patrons, and is open to beneficial suggestions to improve its existing facilities.

But in order to maintain these professional services, the hospital is looking for qualified nurses and nurse assistants from the local community. Any nurse who is at present unemployed is encouraged to contact the hospital to offer their services.